

Nineteen Years Later— It's Still In The Air

by Steve Ingraham

Behind the charming facade of a mere girl's dorm, deep in the basement of Holcroft House lurks ...a transmitter. Day and night (2 to 12 P.M. on weekends and 6 to 12 on weekdays) this mass of circuitry beams a flow of good music, news analysis, commentary, book reviews, etc. to the unsuspecting Techer and Potsdamite. All this is disguised beneath the harmless initials "WTSC-FM", but lol that's not all.

"WTSC-FM" is only one part of a master organization, known as I.C.R.N., which through two carrier current stations, (known significantly as WNTC and WTSC-AM) 26 miles of program transmission cables and the very air we breathe is broadcasting music, news, weather, and sports to keep us happy, contented, and informed.

So there you have it. It's a plot, obviously, and like most plots this one has been a long time in ripening. It started ages ago in 1947 when certain people at Clarkson decided that there was not enough music or news in their lives and being atypical Techers, they did something about it. That something was WNTC which is still audible at 640kc on your dial.

Then, too, in time a group arose to bring a different type of programming to the students at Clarkson and this group spawned WCCT (540kc. not WTSC-AM) in February of 1961.

The two stations grew and matured until 1962 when the officers of the two stations entered a coalition to unite the two into a network with combined business, technical, and secretarial departments. On Moving-Up Day in May 1962, the Inter College Radio Network was born, and on November 3, 1963, WTSC-FM came on the air for the first time at 91.1mc, completing the present complement of the I.C.R.N.

Today the I.C.R.N. is a large (100 members from both State and Clarkson) and efficient (computerized bookkeeping) organization. It has transmitters for the two AM stations in all the dorms at both State and Clarkson as well as the one for WTSC-FM in Holcroft which serves both colleges and the town of Potsdam.

It maintains research and electronic construction facilities; a transistorized dual channel stereo console at WTSC-FM; (designed and built by I.C.R.N. members this console is as advanced as any commercially available) two studio consoles (WNTC and the I.C.R.N. newsroom) four professional turntables, cartridge tape units and transistorized remote pickup and transmission facilities. The money for all this is supplied by local and national commercial advertising and through both Clarkson's Student Council and the Student Government Association at State.

Each and every one of us has probably been exposed to this

organization through the Fab 50 and pick hit programming of WNTC but perhaps it's more subtle influence is felt through WTSC-FM-AM. WTSC as I said somewhere earlier broadcasts news, commentary, book reviews, weather, and a variety of special features. These include convocations; Crane Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and Collegiate Singers Concerts; Phoenix Club, Crane Wind Ensemble and Crane Brass and Percussion Ensemble concerts; not to mention Clarkson Hockey. Their schedule includes regular programs in popular, jazz, classical, and folk music as well as programs devoted to new LP's and individual artists.

This is perhaps the worst part of the conspiracy as it is specifically designed to inform and entertain us. The I.C.R.N. is out to make life more bearable for us. It is a plot and if you don't believe me turn on your radio and see for yourself.